



The RCC Weekly

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Gateway Scholars

The Center for Student Success is pleased to announce The Gateway Scholars program, a new initiative here at RCC! The Gateway Scholars is part of the Inclusive Concurrent Enrollment (ICE) grant through the Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

The Gateway Scholars Program offers public high school students with severe disabilities, ages 18-22, who have not passed the MCAS, the opportunity to participate in inclusive college courses (credit or non-credit) to increase their chances for success in school and work.

We are looking for faculty who are interested in hosting Gateway Scholar students in their courses in the fall 2012 semester. We are offering a professional development workshop on working with special needs students on June 26th from 10am to 12pm for interested faculty. There will be a stipend for attending and lunch will be provided. If interested please email Pam MacDonald, Gateway Scholars Program Director at pmacdonald@rcc.mass.edu right away.

Title III Supports Conference Attendance

- **8th Annual Massachusetts Colleges Online Conference on eLearning: Sharing Best Practices**

Seven faculty and staff members attended the MCO conference at Bridgewater State University on Wednesday, June 6th. Thirty four workshops on a variety of technology topics were offered. Best practices were discussed and a lot of useful information was shared. The keynote speaker spoke at length about the role of technology in today's changing world. Click [HERE](#) to visit the conference website.

- **New England Faculty Development Conference "Making the Technology Transparent The Professor's Dilemma"**

On Friday, June 8th, six faculty and staff members will attend the NEFDC in East Greenwich, RI. Click [HERE](#) to visit the conference website.

- **Accelerated Learning Program Conference**

Four faculty and staff members are currently in Baltimore, MD, attending the ALP conference. Click [HERE](#) to visit the conference website.

The attendees will share the information they gleaned from these conferences with the College community in the fall. Stay tuned.

Professional Development Days Growing Every Year

RCC's 2nd Annual **Title III Professional Development Day** and the 7th Annual **Learning Academy**, held on May 22nd and 23rd, were a resounding success. Attendance reached an all-time high of 88 Tuesday and 97 Wednesday (up from 64 and 68 last year), with the vast majority of faculty and staff attending both days. For the first time we had to close the doors on impromptu (unregistered) attendance; hopefully next year a larger cafeteria will allow us to keep those doors open. The goal of bringing full- and part-time faculty and staff together was well met, with 50% of registrants being full-time and 45% part-time; 34% of registrants were staff, the rest faculty and a few external presenters.

The keynote by Dr. Ellie Kutz from U.Mass/Boston addressed the topic of "Supporting Inquiry with Educational Technology." Attendees chose among 90-, 60- and 20-minute workshops on topics ranging from assessment to classroom technology, from local issues in classroom management to state-wide involvement with LEAP standards. Poster sessions provided opportunities for conversation and new contacts. In addition, two staff members took and passed the first RCC Moodle certification test in one of the sessions.

On Wednesday President Gomes presented the "Through the Gateway" awards at a packed reception and poster session. Professors **Ruth Kiefson** and **Tia Juana Malone** received the faculty awards for campus leadership with professional development,

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curricular projects, and community building. Transfer Counselor **Loretta Minor** got the professional staff award for her effectiveness with students and outreach to faculty and staff. The group award went to the **tutors from the TLC, the Writing Center, and the Math Clinic** for the rigor and heart they bring to their important work.

A few things worth noting emerge from a preliminary look at the evaluations. People want more, and 20 minutes was *too short*! Participants said that the most valuable aspects of the day were interaction with peers and the opportunity to ask questions; it seems we like learner centered environments when we are on the other side of the desk or counter. When asked about what mattered most, and where we need to go in the future, the most common desires were to find ways to engender collaborative learning for both students and faculty, and to learn to use technology to achieve these goals. Learning styles, teaching in a diverse environment, classroom management, outcomes assessment, and learning from student data on demographics and achievement – these were the other themes that matter most to people. All of that will be borne in mind when we sit down in the fall to plan next year's spring events. It will also be shared with the Title III and College Professional Development Committees, and with the IST Department and Academic Technology Division, to inform their work throughout the year as well.



Not only do these events grow in size each year, but their purpose shifts as other professional development forums are available throughout the fall and spring semesters, as new grants shape our growth, and as faculty and staff move from learning how to use technology at all, and delve more deeply into ensuring that it leads to more learning. These days are an important rallying point as we strengthen the institution, but they are really only a key moment in a much bigger picture.



Special thanks to the organizers of these two great PD days and to Sterling Giles for spearheading the efforts.

